



Department of City & Regional Planning  
School of Public Health  
Jason Corburn, MCP, PhD  
Associate Professor  
228 Wurster Hall  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California 94720

PHONE: (510) 643-4790  
E-Mail: [jcorburn@berkeley.edu](mailto:jcorburn@berkeley.edu)  
Web: [www.jasoncorburn.com](http://www.jasoncorburn.com)  
Web: [healthycities.berkeley.edu](http://healthycities.berkeley.edu)

February 4, 2014

Association of Bay Area Governments  
101 Eight Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear 2014 Growing Smarter Together Awards Selection Committee,

As an associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley, with joint appointments in the Department of City and Regional Planning and the School of Public Health it is with great pleasure that I recommend the City of Richmond for ABAG's *On the Ground—Getting It Done Award*.

Through my involvement as a partner and co-leader of the Richmond Health Equity Partnership, I have intimate knowledge of the City of Richmond's leadership in integrating health equity into city government decisions. The City of Richmond was one of the first cities in the state to address the multiple drivers of health inequity through the creation of the Richmond General Plan 2030 and in particular the adoption and implementation of a standalone Community Health and Wellness Element (HWE). Furthermore, to my knowledge, the City of Richmond is also the only city in the country to develop its own Health in All Policies (HiAP) Strategy, a collaborative approach to decision making that considers the health and health equity consequences of public policies. Through this work, the City of Richmond is serving as a model in health equity planning and continues to receive recognition throughout the state and nation for this work.

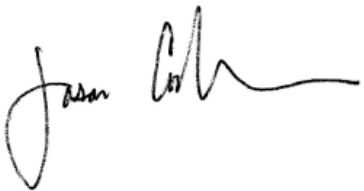
Currently, the City of Richmond is completing its HiAP strategy and formalizing an interdepartmental HiAP team. As part of this work, the city continues to operationalize the policies and plans in the Richmond General Plan 2030 and address the central goals adopted by ABAG. I can state with confidence that the City of Richmond is committed to an on-going process towards creating healthy communities through continued institutional attention, public engagement and accountability. Leadership from the City Manager, senior staff, and community-based organizations are contributing to measurable improvements in the community – from new schools, parks and childcare centers to social and economic programs, to reductions in violence. Importantly, the culture of planning and city management has shifted to make health equity and undoing structural

racism a central and explicit component of the municipality's work. This institutional change was aided by the practical strategies mentioned above, including the health element and an implementation task force led by the City Manager but with support from all city departments and community organizations.

The City of Richmond is also successfully implementing strategies that create compact, vibrant and livable communities. Through its proposed Form-Based Code, the City of Richmond will be incentivizing mixed-use developments and introducing new opportunities for a variety of housing types, including medium density multifamily housing, residential care facilities, transitional/supportive housing and live/work spaces. The City has adopted and is implementing its new Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans and completing multiple complete streets improvement projects through Safe Routes to School funding. The City is leading in initiatives to increase safety, reduce cost, and save energy. Through a partnership with UC Berkeley, the City of Richmond is moving ahead to develop a Climate Action Plan to support environmental health and justice efforts.

There are few other, if any, local governments in the state (and none that I know of in the Bay Area) that are as progressive and forward thinking in promoting smart and equitable growth as Richmond. Richmond is unquestionably a leader across the region, state and nation in taking on challenging issues and getting things done that benefit the local population and the region. I recommend the City of Richmond without reservation for the *On the Ground—Getting It Done Award*. Please contact me at [jcorburn@berkeley.edu](mailto:jcorburn@berkeley.edu) if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Corburn", with a stylized, flowing script.

Jason Corburn, PhD, MCP  
Associate Professor